

## Claims

The invention claimed is:

1. A method for dynamically adding nodes to a network subject to partitioning for which there is also a requirement that a quorum of nodes be present for file system operation, said method  
5 comprising the steps of:

establishing, for a current configuration of nodes, a first quorum value based on the number of nodes in the current configuration;

initiating addition of proposed nodes to the configuration and establishing a second quorum value based on the existing number of nodes and the number of nodes to be added; and

10 completing addition of at least one proposed node, to the configuration of nodes, based on said second quorum value and also upon a designation that said proposed node was part of said current configuration and updating said first quorum value to reflect the completed addition.

2. The method of claim 1 in which the process of claim 1 is repeated for each node to be added.

3. The method of claim 1 further including dynamically updating a node configuration  
15 membership list.